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**REMARKS**

On a PAPER, entitled,

A

**LETTER**

TO

**Protestant DISSENTERS,**

Concerning their Conduct in the

*Ensuing Elections.*

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*Formerly printed in the Year 1722.*

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L O N D O N:

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R. E. M. A. R. S.

ON A PAPER, entitled

LETTER

Protestant Dissenters

Concerning the Union of the Churches

English Dissenters

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R E M A R K S  
O N T H E  
L E T T E R  
T O

Protestant Dissenters, &c.



AS the Writer of this Letter professeth himself to be a Dissenter, so do I too; and when he is pleas'd to tell the World *his* Name, I shall no longer make a Secret of *mine*. Writing in Ambush, throwing Invectives from behind a Hedge, is by no means a fair way of acting: A skulking Author may have *some* Reasons to publish his little Work, but he must have a great many *more* to be unknown; for whoever is hurt, he himself will be safe. When he dares

to be publick, and answer what I have now writ, he shall find me a fair Opposite, and may expect from me a larger Account of those Matters that I am now led into.

I, who have seen enough what is lately done among the Dissenters, cannot be without my Suspicions, that the same Man must be both the *Author* and *Darling* of this Paper; the Person whom it comes from, as well as the Person whom it points and directs us to. He that is known upon all Occasions, to be drawing a Flattery from *others*, will have no great Pain in laying it thick upon *himself*. That the whole Design of this Performance is to remount a certain Person to that Interest among the Dissenters from which he has fallen, is plain by the stupid Commendations that are here given him.

We have an Account how the *Occasional* and *Schism* Bills were repeal'd, "That this came not so soon as was expected"; which is true enough. But the Charge ought never to be drawn up by the very Man that undertook to make us all easy in the Delay; who pleaded for it, when some Members of the House of Commons met upon a grand Consult; and whose bare Word was given out as a ground of Satisfaction to that People, that



that it was not yet a proper Time. How that comes now to be mention'd as a Head of Complaint, which was then never spoke of, but under his Approbation, I cannot conceive ; unless he thinks to act in Politicks as he does in Religion, and admire a *Court* as he does a *Congregation* ; that is, so long as they admire him.

Afterwards, he says, “ these Laws  
 “ were indeed repeal’d, but the Way in  
 “ which it was done in the Lower-House  
 “ shew’d, that those who engag’d in it  
 “ were sick of the Work, and thought it  
 “ a troublesome Task. You had indeed  
 “ their Votes, but what was never seen  
 “ before, in an Affair of that Consequence,  
 “ it was carried as if nothing  
 “ was to be offer’d in Defence of it ; not  
 “ one of the Courtiers had any thing to  
 “ offer in your Behalf ; *one of your own*  
 “ *Body* was forc’d, no Body else appearing  
 “ an Advocate for you, to wipe off  
 “ the Reproach. \* H E had indeed, on  
 “ all Occasions, shown the greatest Concern  
 “ for your Interest, and this was  
 “ *the only Instance* one cou’d have wish’d  
 “ you another Advocate.” If we had

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\* Lord Viscount B - - -

been uncertain before, who it was that directed the writing and spreading of this Paper, here's a Paragraph that lays the Design open all at once. The Dissenters can be no longer at a Loss upon whom their Eyes must now be fix'd, if this Author makes any Impression: And I am confident every Reader will imagine that I have guess'd right by the Name that he finds in the Margin.

But over-doing, is undoing, the Falshood is too much, and the Impudence too gross. If they who can teach us Moderation in preaching the *Truth*, would direct their Freinds to a little more Moderation in telling of *Lies*, it might be better for their purpose. For,

First, how scandalous is it for any to say, that we had *none in the Lower-House* to plead our Cause, or that the Persons who did it were *sick of the Work*? This is a Falshood so unguarded and unbounded, that we may suppose the Man who writes it, is never to be convinc'd; for it is the same Attainment to be victorious over Shame, as it is to be triumphant over Reason. At that time it was our common Discourse, which People told and believed with Pleasure, that we had the Zeal of Ten or Twelve Gentlemen, whose Names might easily be mention'd.

And

And if they had not appear'd very much in earnest, the Bill must have sunk ; for besides the Load that the *Tories* were sure to lay upon it, at that time the Fury of the *Whigs* against one another, expos'd it to the Opposition of a Party that used to be our Friends.

Secondly, As the Court propos'd that Repeal, and promoted it to the uttermost, so it would look very ungrateful in us, should we suffer a *trifling Malecontent* to wreak his Revenge upon them, by teaching us to deny their Kindness. We had scarce a Dozen Dissenters in the House, and how can we expect the Favour of such an Assembly for the Time to come, if it lies in the Power of such as are *Lovers of themselves*, to fill us with a Contempt of our greatest Benefactors?

Thirdly, Tho' the Author makes a very little Matter of this Repeal, by telling us, that our School-Masters are still under great Hardships from former Laws, yet the Man whom his Paper so exalts, made a mighty Noise of the Favour that was shown us, in a Preamble to those *Heads of Advice* which he prevail'd upon some Ministers at *Salters-Hall* to adopt.

Fourth-

Fourthly, There was Care taken that this Bill should appear in no other Light, than as an Act of Friendship to us from those of the established Church: To that purpose the few Dissenters we had in the House were easily prevail'd upon not to speak, for this Reason, *viz.* that his Majesty's Care about us, and the Steadiness of those to whom he committed the whole Affair, might have their full Evidence. I own indeed there was another Argument, why they of our own Persuasion shou'd be silent, (*viz.*) because a certain Person whom no Advice can cure of his *Incontinence*, was so well known for tedious unmoving Harangues, that as it was common for Multitudes to leave the House, when he rose up to speak; so by that Means we might be in danger of losing the Bill. Every Dissenter, except himself, saw the Goodness of this Reasoning; but they that are full, must run over; nor was it possible, by all our Importunity, to protect the House from the Toil they were so much afraid of. I mention this to show the good Temper of our Friends, and their Zeal for the Cause, when *even that Speech* did not make them desert the Service.

Fifthly,



Fifthly, What must we think of the Author, when he adds, *This was the ONLY Time you ever wanted another Advocate.* What an Opinion must he have of his own Sufficiency? But it agrees well enough with his Humour, to be at the Head of your Body.

Sixthly, He adds, that *This Advocate* (for, by the way, he never calls him this Gentleman, for now he's a Lord) *had on all Occasions shewn the greatest Concern for your Interest.* This is a Matter that ought to be decided by *Things*, and not by *Words*. Don't heed what a Company of speaking Trumpets tell you, who will bellow out whatever he blows in. But enquire who it was, that has tore your Churches in pieces at *London*, and wou'd have done it at *Exeter*? What Treatment some younger Ministers have given the Elder? What Thanks they have had from him for doing so? How he has, upon all Occasions, encourag'd a Denial of the Truth, and an injurious Carriage to those who appear'd in its Cause?

B

He

He has honour'd the Violence, the *Hissing*, the Noise and Passion of a clamorous Company, with the Name of making a *noble Stand*. He has made several amongst us, who wear long Wigs and Swords, drop the *Gentleman* as much as they have done the *Christian* in all their Behaviour, as if he was desirous to carry his Cause by a Company of *Arian Bullies*. He has been the Patron of those who have *departed from the Faith*, a Skreen to Infidels out of Parliament, and Stock-jobbers in it: So that though this Paper is recommending him to your Esteem, yet do you never admire the Things that the Lord hates, a *proud Look*, a *lying Tongue*, a *Heart that deviseth wicked Imaginations*, *Feet that be swift in running to Mischief*, a *false Witness that speaketh Lies*, and him that *sows Discord among Brethren*.

The Author goes on with a String of Lies, that I need only repeat, and leave every Reader to confute. As when he says, " You are the principal  
 " Part of the *Whig* Interest in the King-  
 " dom; that by your Means and Votes  
 " alone, the King is upon good Terms  
 " with

“ with his Parliament : That the far  
 “ greater Part of the Protestant Dis-  
 “ senters think it commendable to show  
 “ their Charity to their Brethren of the  
 “ Establish’d Church, by joining in Com-  
 “ munion with them.” This last is what  
 every one of you is capable of contra-  
 dicting. But the Man writes without  
 all Shame, as if he had a mind to make  
 the silly Scandal more current, That tho’  
 you will not swear, yet you’ll lie. It’s  
 no Charity to the Establish’d Church, to  
 do what we have always scrupled. But we  
 have a more honourable way of showing  
 our Esteem for ’em now, in agreeing to-  
 gether, *to contend for the Faith that was*  
*once deliver’d to the Saints*; thus *speaking*  
*the Truth in Love*, and thus *holding the*  
*Head*.

He goes on with a heavy Complaint,  
 and rowls it up in a Threatning : “ That  
 “ the Repeal of the Occasional Bill  
 “ remains a dead Letter ; for no ap-  
 “ parent Benefit has accrued to your  
 “ Brethren thereby ; and you have rea-  
 “ son to believe, that the Neglect and  
 “ Coldness that has been shown you,  
 “ will not be alter’d but by your Con-  
 “ duct.” Our Brethren all over the  
 Kingdom know very much of this to be

false; several who cou'd not be in the Service of the Government, but upon the heavy Terms of never going to a Meeting, are restor'd to their old Employments; and many more are admitted to new ones: So that if you *obey* the Author, as little as you must *believe* him, his Advice and his Reports will equally pass for nothing. But wou'd not any one suppose that the Person in whose Favour all this is writ was neglected? And can there be the least room for a Complaint on this Account, if you do but consider,

First, That in the late Reign his Journey to *Scotland* about the Union, was rewarded by a Place in the *Custom-House* of a Thousand Pounds a Year. And whether he was over-paid or no, many that know his Conduct will be able to judge. I shall not now mention his trifling Carriage at *Dalkeith*, and other Places upon the Road. But the great Merit of his Expedition was, to advise the *Scotch* not to insist upon the Repeal of the Test Act in their Parliament, and to promise 'em, that it should be removed in ours. I know he has all along arrogated the Success of that great Affair to himself; and some that are *his Believers* will talk it for him with about  
as



as much Sense, as the *Philistines* said that *Sampson* was routed by *Dagon*.

Secondly, These Murmurings are the more intolerable, as they come from one who tells the Court he can do what he will with the Dissenters; and tells the Dissenters, he can do what he will with the Court; and has suffer'd his Advocates to give it out, that *for want of his Favour, our last Address was not presented to his Majesty*.

Thirdly, Has he not been greatly honour'd, and made a Peer of *Ireland*, the same happy Week that Sir *John Blunt* was made a Baronet of *Great Britain*? And it's remarkable, with what Distinctions of Favour he was then advanc'd. We should never have known of his *Modesty*, if it had not been stuck into a Patent; and this publish'd twice at large in *Latin* and *English* in one Week by the *Flying-Post*, which at that Time was a Paper so much in Vogue, as to give the Nation the fatal *South-Sea* Scheme three times over, by which the Managers of that Design had their End, and some Thousands of People their Destruction. Nay, if what my Lord says is true, His Majesty was pleas'd, in Person, to direct the Quartering of the Royal Arms with the  
B——'s,

B——'s, and thus before he was a *Counsellor*, own'd him for a *Cousin*. This vain Talk is what he has entertain'd his Friends with, whom he makes Scepticks to every thing else, but Enthusiasts to himself. 'Tis time, if we cannot stop his Mouth with what he has *got*, to do it with what he has *said*.

Fourthly, He has obtain'd the Honour of presiding over the *Harburgh* Affair, in a very strange Neglect of the Gentlemen who contriv'd the Scheme, and whose Experience and good Sense made 'em thoroughly acquainted with Trade: And yet so kind has the Government been to his Lordship, that after he had spent several Hundred Pounds of the Company's Money in a Ramble to *Hanover*, the Man that did this, is appointed to rule 'em. Can such a one as he complain?

Fifthly, His Interest has been very powerful, as himself us'd to boast, how many People of *Berwick* he had serv'd; that for their sakes he was perpetually *teazing* the Treasury. And this we know, if any of our Ministers have been turn'd out for *Arianism*, &c. he thinks himself bound in Honour to get 'em into profitable Places. His Name seems to be the last Refuge of a blasted Preacher. And when

when Men are too vile for our Pulpits, his Recommendation can make 'em good enough for his Majesty's Service.

Sixthly, We have had Stories of his receiving 6000 Pounds, and that he has a Reversion of one of the best Posts in *Ireland*. But if these are true, as the one is *past*, and the other to *come*, for want of a little *present Good*, the Repeal of the Bills must still remain a *dead Letter*.

I will indeed do him all the Justice that I can; perhaps he has been disappointed. I'm well assur'd, that at *Hanover* he solicited the Government of *Barbadoes*; and whilst he was there, many of his Friends gave it out in all Conversation, that he was either to be *Secretary of State*, or *one of the Lords of the Treasury*. Whether these Balks might not be the Occasion of all the Growling of this Paper, I will not examine.

The Letter complains of that in which I shall heartily join him, "That the  
"Institutions of our Blessed Lord are  
"made use of in Matters of a mere  
"Civil Nature." But we all know, who it was that gave up that part of the Repealing Bill, and represented our whole Body as satisfied with it. In the  
*West,*

*West*, he dissuaded our Brethren from insisting on it, and oppos'd a great Number of those, who look'd upon it as a National Evil, *that the Table of the Lord shou'd be made so contemptible.*

The whole of his Advice is in the last Paragraph, " That it is just and prudent  
 " for Protestant Dissenters to vote a-  
 " gainst all such as opposed the Re-  
 " peal of the Occasional and Schism-  
 " Acts. Not to vote for such as vo-  
 " luntarily absented themselves when  
 " those Acts were repeal'd, whatever  
 " Recommendations they may have.  
 " To be cautious and reserv'd in en-  
 " gaging their Votes and Interests for  
 " any, till they are assur'd that the Can-  
 " didates are in the Interest of Liberty,  
 " or till they have advis'd with their  
 " Friends, who will be very ready to  
 " inform 'em of Men's Characters, and  
 " who are the fittest to represent 'em".

I pass over his witty Distinction between voting *against* some People, and voting *for* others, as an innocent Piece of Nonsense; it means no good, and can do no harm. But is there any thing that our Friends in the Country can understand by this Advice? The first Part of it is only pertinent, where the  
 Candi-



Candidates have been Members of the present Parliament, which, I hope, will not be often. I believe the whole Nation having tried these for Seven long Years, are desirous of a *very New Parliament*. But who are the Friends that must advise you, and are so ready to inform you of Mens Characters, and who are the fittest to represent you? Where's this Office of Intelligence kept? Perhaps you'll think that they who have done it formerly may do it again. But that's not the Design of the Paper.

There's a *Minister* in *London*, to whom the Town of *Berwick* has, upon every New Choice, applied for his Direction or Assistance above One and Twenty Years, and without whose Influence the present Members had never been so much as nam'd amongst 'em. Yet him they have treated with Ingratitude, Irreligion, and Falshood; they have endeavour'd to make him *the Infamy of the People*; bullied him in Pamphlets, belied him in Conversation, and procur'd some in that very Town to call him both a Knave and a Madman. The Design therefore of this Direction, that *you are to advise with your Friends*, is not to enlarge a Correspondence with your Brethren in general,

neral, but to draw *you* into a Dependance upon a *single Humourist*, who thinks to have his own Terms at Court, by guiding your Votes for a Parliament.

The best Rules that I can give you are such as these.

First, If Gentlemen in your own Neighbourhood offer themselves, you are better Judges of their Characters, than any in more distant Parts can pretend to be. If they are Men of *good Estates*, free and unincumber'd, they will be the more likely to pursue the Interest of their Country, and live superior to all Temptations. See to it, that they be Persons of a *clean Character*. Rakes and Drunkards, who are a Scandal in their Country, cannot, without a gross Abuse of the Word, be reckon'd in that *sober Party* you have always appeared for.

Secondly, Be sure that they be hearty to the Cause and Spirit of the *Revolution*, to the *Protestant Succession* as deriv'd from it; and that they will be faithful to that *Toleration*, which is now by the Act of *Union* made a Part of the *Constitution*.

Thirdly,

Thirdly, If any that are Members of the present Parliament offer themselves, enquire into their Behaviour, upon the late *South-Sea* Affair ; Their Names and Actions are publick enough. 'Tis well known by how great a Majority in the House the Bill was carried, which has brought us into so much Confusion. There seem'd once to be an universal Resentment of what the Directors had done ; and well there might, when the Cries and Groans of an injur'd Nation came up from all Parts against them. But after this, some who had been the *loudest* in the Complaint, appear'd in the Defence of the Men. Their Reasons are not *publish'd*, but may easily be *guess'd at*. They moved in Favour of the most profligate Sinners, and did what they cou'd to encumber the Justice of Parliament. *Should the Dissenters chuse any of these* AGAIN, they will draw a Scandal upon their own Heads, but will never be able to remove the indelible Character from those who *sold themselves to do Evil*.

Fourthly, If they are Dissenters that ask your Votes, be sure that they are not *Arians*: This Cause is of the last Importance to you ; for as you can never lie under a viler Name than that your Assemblies are a Nest of Infidels, so it will be impossible to avoid it, if the Men who have acted this Part *already*, are by you impower'd to do it *again*. I own, that one of your Ministers, in a Dedication to Lord B——, first voucheth that he is not an *Arian*, and soon after says, that he knows nothing of his religious Principles. But he further tells you, that if he was an *Arian* it is nothing to the Purpose, nor has the Town of *Berwick* any thing to do with it, because you do not chuse Parliament Men to make Creeds. This is such an Insult upon your whole Body, that if you do not resent it, the Nation will think you far *worse than Priest-ridden*. At the Time of the Toleration, and during the heavy Years that went before it, not one of our Fathers were so much as suspected of these *damnable Heresies*; your Ministers came chearfully into a Subscription of those Articles, that express'd the Fundamental Truths of our Religion. And it is but of late, that



that any among you have *departed from the Faith, giving heed to seducing Spirits*. I'm sorry that any of your Gentlemen in the House of Commons, were Advocates for that Cause. If you send 'em thither again, we shall have a worse Charge against us, than a thousand Schisms and Seditions cou'd amount to. At the Time of the Reformation, there was not a Protestant Church in the World, that did not in the first place, confess the Doctrine of the Trinity; and if you are indifferent upon this Head, the Scandal will be the heavier on you, as it is altogether new. The Author of this Paper talks of *the Friends of Liberty*, which of late, is become a meer *Arian Cant*. They'll promote a Liberty of denying the Truth, but revile a Liberty of asserting it.

It will be hard for any in *London*, to give you Directions about all those that desire your Votes; and I believe there's *but one Man* in the World that's vain enough to think himself so universally capable. But I'm satisfied these Hints are just, and your Contempt of them will be dangerous. You have little Interest separate from that of the Publick, but may act in concert

concert with your sober and honest Neighbours, upon the best Measures for the securing of your Religion, reviving your Trade, and showing, that you are never the less *Christians* for being *Dissenters*.

*F I N I S.*

